APPENDIX.

No. I.

Ciudad de los Angeles,
January 14th, 1847.

MY DEAR SIR: — We have just been informed by the commodore that he intends dispatching an express for the United States in an hour's time, and that we can forward our letters by Mr. Grey, who is selected by him for that purpose. I have written a very hasty letter home, and have a few minutes left to inform you of our doings up to this date.

We reached here after a fatiguing march of eleven days, and fought two pitched battles, in both of which we whipped them to their hearts' content.

When we reached the mission of St. John's, we there met a flag of truce bearing a letter from Flores, signing himself "Commander-in-Chief and Governor of California," and demanding of Commodore Stockton the withdrawal of his troops from the territory of California, stating further that he and his troops would be buried in the ruins of their country sooner than submit to the tyranny of the agents of the United States. The commodore replied that *he* was commander-in-chief and Governor of California, and denounced Flores as a rebel in arms, and that if he caught him he would shoot him; promising at the same time pardon to all others who came in and delivered up their arms and promised to be quiet in future.

Our march was continued steadily from day to day till the afternoon of the 7th, when the enemy's scouts were seen on the hills and in front. Our hopes of a fight were brightened, and on the morning of the 8th I became satisfied for the first time that the enemy would meet us. About three o'clock on the afternoon of the 8th we

reached the river San Gabriel, where we saw the enemy drawn up in full force to dispute our passage. A squadron of cavalry came down the plains in beautiful style, and passed between our advanced guard and the river, and then wheeled and crossed at the ford and joined the main body. Some slight skirmishing was kept up until they had crossed. When we had reached within a hundred yards of the river, the general ordered me to bring up a company from the rear for the purpose of dragging our artillery across. I ordered up Captain Stenson's company of pikemen, who performed that duty with cleverness, under the fire of the enemy, without returning a shot. On the opposite side of the river was a high bank, precipitous, and extending for miles along the course of the river. Between this high bank and the river was a plain of a quarter of a mile in width, and admirably adapted to the movement of cavalry. On the edge of the high bank the enemy had parked four pieces of artillery, with a division of cavalry on either side of it, and on the plain below were two other divisions of cavalry. When General Kearney had made all his arrangements, the order was given "forward," and it would have delighted you to witness with what steadiness our jack tars moved over into their fire. The advanced guard charged in "double quick" across the river and took possession of the lower bank, and soon routed the divisions from the lower plain. The artillery, two nine-pounders, were dragged over, as already stated, and placed on this bank, and immediately opened on the enemy on the heights; the commodore wading and dragging the guns. One of the enemy's guns was soon disabled, and their fire appeared to slacken, and the main body under my command being crossed, with all our baggage and cattle, two other pieces were added to our park, which compelled the enemy to withdraw their artillery to avoid losing them. We then received the order "forward," and as we reached the centre of the valley or plain, the enemy in full force charged the main body on both wings. Some little confusion was created in my left wing by an alteration in the line of march, which made it difficult to form a square when I gave the order; but the men were so steady and compact that no impression could be made, and they were repulsed. We then charged up the

hill, and camped on the enemy's ground. Three of our people were killed and several wounded. Smith, of the mizzen top (the one "with a good eye in his head"), was shot through the thigh and died in a few hours. Thus ended the passage of San Gabriel and the battle of the 8th.

I reviewed the ground afterwards with the general, and 'tis his opinion, and the opinion of all the army officers, that it was a very close affair; it was certainly a spirit-stirring one. The general thinks it the strongest position between it and San Diego. You may form an idea of the steadiness of the men, when I inform you that between the columns of the main body we had sixteen ox carts, four oxen in each, forty pack mules, and two hundred head of cattle, and did not allow one to escape.

We slept on the battle ground on the night of the 8th. On the morning of the 9th we buried our dead, and commenced our march. About one o'clock the enemy fired one of his four-pounders, but it fell short. We continued our march till about 2 o'clock, when a fire was opened on us from their long nine-pounder, which fire was returned in a spirited manner. The enemy took possession of a slight ridge on our right, and brought their smaller pieces into play, we suffering great delay from the breaking down of our carts, and the necessary delay of replacing oxen and mules that were shot in the carts and artillery.

About four o'clock we reached till too near the plain for the enemy to risk his artillery, so 'twas withdrawn, and the whole force came down over the plain and charged my left wing, and the left of the ordnance. Here they were again repulsed, and wheeled off and made another charge on the centre of the left and rear, with less success than the first. The enemy hauled off, and we encamped for the night in full sight of the City of the Angels. Thus ended the battle of the 9th, called the battle of the "Mesa." Crawford, the boatswain's mate, Walls, Campbell, Benson, were wounded. I received a scratch on the right shoulder from a spent ball, which has been very painful, and makes it troublesome to write; but shall be well in a few days, I hope. Captain Higgins' company of musketeers had the

post of honor, in the advance guard, with General Kearney's people. It is unnecessary to state that the officers and men of the Cyane behaved with that coolness and gallantry which your knowledge of them must induce you to expect.

Give my regards to Maxwell and Harrison, and believe me,

Yours truly,

S. C. ROWAN.

No. II.

United States Ship Independence.
Mazatlan, February 28th, 1848.

SIR:—Your letters of the 16th and 22d inst., and those of Lieutenant Heywood, of the 21st and 22d inst., were received on the evening of the 24th, and were forwarded on the 25th to the Secretary of the Navy.

I should do injustice to my own feelings, if I did not express in the warmest language my sense of the good conduct of all concerned, in sustaining, in so brilliant a manner, the honor of the American arms.

The admirable endurance and unflinching courage with which Lieutenant Heywood and those under his command maintained a siege of twenty-one days, and the repeated assaults from a vastly superior number of the enemy for nine days, are only equaled by the conspicuous judgment and cool gallantry with which the force from the Cyane was brought to his aid.

It is not for me to award to the officers, seamen, and marines engaged on these occasions, the praise due for their almost unexampled, certainly not surpassed, gallantry, as detailed in the official reports. They will, I am sure, receive it from a higher source, as soon as the official letters reach the Department.

In the meantime, I request you to tender to all concerned my thanks for the laurels they have gained for the Pacific squadron. To specify each to whom commendation is due, would be but to give a list of all who landed, of all who were at the cuartel, and of those to whose lot it fell to perform the equally important, though less impos-

ing duty, of taking care of the ship and covering the landing of their brethren-in-arms; all have done more than well, and all will receive the reward due to so high an exhibition of professional skill and daring.

I send you a copy of my letter to the Secretary of the Navy; of which, as well as of this, you will be pleased to furnish Lieutenant Heywood a copy, that they may both be read on board the Cyane and at the quartel.

I am, sir, very respectfully your obedient servant,

W. BRADFORD SHUBRICK,
Commanding Pacific Squadron.

Commander S. F. DUPONT,
United States Ship Cyane, San José,
Lower California.

No. III.

To Commander S. F. DuPont:

SIR:—I should do injustice to my own feelings, as well as to you and your officers and crew, were I to withhold expression of the high gratification afforded me by my visit to the Cyane, this morning.

Of your deeds of valor and patient endurance, of long and harassing war service on shore, as well as in our own proper element, the ocean, all who read the public journals are informed. Satisfactory as are these accounts, equally so is the evidence afforded me of the discipline and healthful condition of your ship and crew.

The transformation of seamen to *well-drilled* infantry is what I am not accustomed to see in the navy, and its successful accomplishment in the Pacific squadron affords a new and additional assurance upon which our country may implicitly rely, that in her seamen she may always confide her honor and her interests, whatever may be the emergency, or wherever their services may be required.

By your muster roll, I discover the term of service of many of your men has already expired, and that the term of all who left the United States in the Cyane will be out before she can be got home. Your men are all aware that by the act of Congress, and the articles

they have signed, under certain circumstances, men may be detained in foreign service after their time of enlistment has expired.

My construction of that law is, that the necessity for keeping men over their time must be real and not imaginary; but their officers must be judges of that necessity. The law was enacted for the benefit of such enlisted persons as the state of the public service imperiously required to be kept abroad. Such has been the Cyane's condition by a state of actual war. I am happy to say that the patient acquiescence of her crew, under the necessity of the case, entitles them to additional consideration.

The war with Mexico, in which the Cyane has borne a conspicuous part, is probably now at an end, but of that I have no positive information. On the 2d of June, the armistice expires, by its own limitation. By this circumstance, I find it impracticable to make full arrangements for sending ships home. You may therefore say to your crew that, under any circumstances which I can now anticipate, the Cyane will sail for home before the middle of June.

In communicating this information, I do it with full confidence in the patriotism and fidelity of seamen, which enables me to say, and to say it with pride, that in forty-three years of naval service, I have never found them backward when their country called, or unwilling to follow, where their officers pointed to a foe in arms.

Very respectfully yours, etc.,

THOMAS APC. JONES,

Commander-in-Chief of the United States naval forces, Pacific Ocean.

FLAG SHIP OHIO, Mazatlan Roads,
May 11th, 1848.